

2 a therapeutic bioabsorbable element in a pre-delivery state prior to its delivery
3 to a soft tissue site of a patient;
4 said bioabsorbable element being of a material which is in a post-delivery state
5 at the target tissue site; and
6 the therapeutic agent comprising a radiation agent.

1 93. (Amended) A target tissue localization device comprising:
2 a bioabsorbable element in a pre-delivery state prior to its delivery to a
3 soft tissue site of a patient;
4 the bioabsorbable element comprising a therapeutic gene therapy agent; and
5 said bioabsorbable element being of a material which is in a post-delivery state
6 at the target tissue site.

1 94. (Amended) A target tissue localization device comprising:
2 a bioabsorbable element in a pre-delivery state prior to its delivery to a
3 soft tissue site of a patient;
4 said bioabsorbable element being of a material which is in a post-delivery state
5 at the target tissue site; and
6 the bioabsorbable element comprising means for subsequently receiving a
7 therapeutic agent.

1 95. The device according to claim 94 wherein the receiving means comprises a
2 radiation agent.

1 96. The device according to claim 94 wherein the receiving means comprises a
2 gene therapy agent.

1 97. The device according to claim 94 wherein the receiving means comprises a
2 chemotherapy agent.

1 98. The device according to claim 89 further comprising a marker element in
2 contact with the bioabsorbable element.

1 99. The device according to claim 98 wherein the marker element is a radiopaque
2 marker element located generally centrally within the bioabsorbable element.

1 100. The device according to claim the 99 wherein the radiopaque marker element
2 is a chosen one of a permanent marker element and a temporary marker element.

1 101. The device according to claim 89 wherein the bioabsorbable element is
2 remotely visualizable in its post-delivery state by at least one of ultrasound, mammography
3 and MRI.

1 102. The device according to claim 89 wherein the bioabsorbable element is softer
2 in its post-delivery state than in its pre-delivery state.

1 103. The device according to claim 89 wherein the bioabsorbable element is
2 physically different in its post-delivery state from its pre-delivery state.

1 118. A target tissue localization method comprising:
2 taking tissue from a target tissue site within a patient;
3 selecting a bioabsorbable element that is capable of yielding therapy via
4 delivery of a therapeutic agent to or activating a therapeutic agent within the bioabsorbable
5 element;

6 positioning the bioabsorbable element at the target tissue site;
7 testing the tissue; and
8 if the testing indicates a need to do so relocating the target tissue site by
9 finding the bioabsorbable element by palpation of the patient to feel the bioabsorbable
10 element.

1 119. The method according to claim 118 wherein the positioning step is carried out
2 using said bioabsorbable element and a radiopaque marker.

1 120. The method according to claim the 119 wherein the radiopaque marker
2 element is a chosen one of a permanent marker element and a temporary marker element.

1 121. The method according to claim 118 wherein the remotely visualizing step is
2 carried out to by at least one of ultrasound, mammography and MRI.

1 122. The method according to claim 118 further comprising the step of selecting
2 the bioabsorbable element so that after positioning at the target site, the bioabsorbable
3 element has a hardness of at least about 1.5 times as hard as the surrounding tissue.

1 123. The method according to claim 118 further comprising the step of effectively
2 preventing blood from contacting the bioabsorbable element until the bioabsorbable element
3 is positioned at the target site.

1 124. The method according to claim 123 wherein the effectively preventing step is
2 carried out by using a hemostatic bioabsorbable element having a non-hemostatic
3 biodegradable outer layer.

1 125. The method according the claim 118 wherein the positioning step is carried
2 out using a bioabsorbable element with a remotely sensible marker element at a generally
3 central location within the bioabsorbable element.

1 126. The method according to claim 118 wherein the tissue taking step is carried
2 out at a biopsy site as the target tissue site.

1 127. A target tissue localization method comprising:
2 taking tissue from a target tissue site within a patient;
3 selecting a bioabsorbable element that is capable of yielding therapy via
4 delivery of therapy or activating therapy within the bioabsorbable element;
5 positioning the bioabsorbable element at the target tissue site;
6 testing the tissue; and
7 if the testing indicates a need to do so relocating the target tissue site by
8 finding the bioabsorbable element by locating inflammation at the target tissue site caused by
9 the bioabsorbable element.

1 128. The method according to claim 127 wherein the positioning step is carried out
2 using said bioabsorbable element and a radiopaque marker.

1 129. The method according to claim the 128 wherein the radiopaque marker
2 element is a chosen one of a permanent marker element and a temporary marker element.

1 130. The method according to claim 127 wherein the remotely visualizing step is
2 carried out to by at least one of ultrasound, mammography and MRI.

1 131. The method according to claim 127 further comprising the step of selecting
2 the bioabsorbable element so that after positioning at the target site, the bioabsorbable
3 element has a hardness of at least about 1.5 times as hard as the surrounding tissue.

1 132. The method according to claim 127 further comprising the step of effectively
2 preventing blood from contacting the bioabsorbable element until the bioabsorbable element
3 is positioned at the target site.

1 133. The method according to claim 132 wherein the effectively preventing step is
2 carried out by using a hemostatic bioabsorbable element having a non-hemostatic
3 biodegradable outer layer.

1 134. The method according the claim 127 wherein the positioning step is carried
2 out using a bioabsorbable element within a remotely sensible marker element at a generally
3 central location within the bioabsorbable element.

1 135. The method according to claim 127 wherein the tissue taking step is carried
2 out at a biopsy site as the target tissue site.

1 136. (Amended) A target tissue localization method comprising:
2 taking tissue from a target tissue site within a patient;
3 selecting a bioabsorbable element that is capable of yielding therapy via
4 delivery of therapy or activating therapy within the bioabsorbable element;

5 positioning the bioabsorbable element at the target tissue site;
6 the step of selecting the bioabsorbable element being carried out so that after
7 positioning at the target site, the bioabsorbable element has a hardness of at least about 1.5
8 times as hard as the surrounding tissue;
9 testing the tissue; and
10 if the testing indicates a need to do so relocating the target tissue site by
11 finding the bioabsorbable element by remotely visualizing the bioabsorbable element.

1 137. The method according to claim 136 wherein the positioning step is carried out
2 using said bioabsorbable element and a radiopaque marker.

1 138. The method according to claim the 137 wherein the radiopaque marker
2 element is a chosen one of a permanent marker element and a temporary marker element.

1 139. The method according to claim 136 wherein the remotely visualizing step is
2 carried out to by at least one of ultrasound, mammography and MRI.

1 141. The method according to claim 136 further comprising the step of effectively
2 preventing blood from contacting the bioabsorbable element until the bioabsorbable element
3 is positioned at the target site.

1 142. The method according to claim 141 wherein the effectively preventing step is
2 carried out using a hemostatic bioabsorbable element having a non-hemostatic biodegradable
3 outer layer.

1 143. The method according the claim 136 wherein the positioning step is carried
2 out using a bioabsorbable element with a remotely sensible marker element at a generally
3 central location within the bioabsorbable element.

1 144. A target tissue localization method comprising:
2 taking tissue from a target tissue site within a patient;
3 selecting a remotely visualizable bioabsorbable element; and
4 positioning the remotely visualizable bioabsorbable element at the target tissue
5 site.

1 145. The method according to claim 144 wherein the positioning step is carried out
2 using a bioabsorbable element at least a portion of which is radiopaque.

1 146. The method according to claim 144 wherein the tissue taking step is carried
2 out at a biopsy site as the target tissue site.

1 147. The method according to claim 144 wherein the positioning step is carried out
2 using remote visualization.

1 148. A medical treatment method comprising:
2 taking a tissue sample from a target tissue site within a patient;
3 positioning a bioabsorbable element at the target tissue site at the time of the
4 taking of the tissue sample;
5 testing the tissue sample;
6 if the testing indicates a need to do so, medically treating the target tissue site.

1 150. The method according to claim 148 wherein the medically treating step
2 comprises delivering a therapeutic agent to the target site.

1 151. The method according to claim 150 wherein the delivering step is carried out
2 using at least one of:
3 a chemotherapy agent;
4 a radiation-emitting element;
5 thermal energy;
6 ionization energy;
7 gene therapy;
8 vector therapy;
9 electrical therapy;